## Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-13 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /071 W

-----200143Z 011073 /73

R 191349Z APR 77

FM AMEMBASSY MADRID

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9847

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSLS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USMISSION NATO

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

## LIMITED OFFICIAL USE MADRID 2963

E.O. 11652: N/A TAGS: PINT, SP

SUBJECT: AP BACKS OFF

REF: MADRID 2908

1. OVER THE WEEKEND, ALIANZA POPULAR (AP) LEADERS AND MADRID'S CONSERVATIVE, AP-LINKED "ABC" BACKED AWAY FROM THEIR SHRILL, PROVOCATIVE ATTACKS ON THE SUAREZ GOVT OVER ITS LEGALIZATION OF THE PCE. OBVIOUSLY AS THE RESULT OF THE STORM OF CONTROVERSY AND COUNTER-CHARGES PROVOKED BY AP'S RHETORICAL ASSAULT, "ABC" RAN A CONCILIATORY EDITORIAL IN ITS SUNDAY EDITION REITERATING ITS DISAGREEMENT WITH THE GOVT'S DECISION, BUT "RESPECTING" IT AND "OFFERING LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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THE GOVT OUR SUPPORT..." "ABC" THEN REPRODUCED THE EDITORIAL SUPPORTIVE OF THE GOVT (AND IMPLICITLY CRITICAL OF AP'S LINE) WHICH WAS PUBLISHED BY MOST OTHER MADRID DAILIES ON SATURDAY (REFTEL), BUT ALSO EDITORIALIZED SOBERLY ON THE POINTS IT DISAGREED WITH.

2. IN SPEECHES ON SUNDAY, A NUMBER OF AP LEADERS ALSO WERE

RELATIVELY CONCILIATORY, ALTHOUGH THEY DID NOT OF COURSE ABANDON THEIR SUBSTANTIVE POSITIONS. RUIZ GALLARDON SAID THEY SAW THE LEGALIZATION OF THE PCE WITH "MISGIVINGS," WHILE FRAGA, NAMING AS SPAIN'S THREE ILLS "PORNOGRAPHY, INFLATION, AND COMMUNISM," POINTED OUT IN RESPONSE TO THE JOINT EDITORIAL THAT AP WAS THE FIRST TO CALL FOR ELECTIONS, "AND AS SOON AS POSSIBLE," ALL IN ALL A FAR CRY FROM HIS TERMING THE PCE LEGALIZATION A "JURIDICIAL FARCE" AND A "COUP DETAT." STABLER

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NNN

## Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am

Channel Indicators: n/a **Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED** 

Concepts: PARTY LINE, POLICIES, POLITICAL PARTIES, CENTRAL GOVERNMENT, POLITICAL SITUATION

Control Number: n/a

Copy: SINGLE Sent Date: 19-Apr-1977 12:00:00 am Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am

Decaption Note:

Disposition Action: RELEASED Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW

Disposition Date: 22 May 2009 Disposition Event: Disposition Event:
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977MADRID02963
Document Source: CORE

**Document Unique ID: 00** 

Drafter: n/a Enclosure: n/a Executive Order: N/A

Errors: N/A **Expiration:** 

Film Number: D770136-0331

Format: TEL From: MADRID

Handling Restrictions: n/a

Image Path:

ISecure: 1

Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770443/aaaablbj.tel

Line Count: 71 Litigation Code IDs: Litigation Codes:

Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM

Message ID: f1eab4a2-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc

Office: ACTION EUR

Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE Original Handling Restrictions: n/a Original Previous Classification: n/a Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a

Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a

Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a Reference: 77 MADRID 2908

Retention: 0

Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED Review Content Flags: Review Date: 09-Dec-2004 12:00:00 am

Review Event: Review Exemptions: n/a **Review Media Identifier:** Review Release Date: n/a Review Release Event: n/a **Review Transfer Date:** Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a

SAS ID: 2765642 Secure: OPEN Status: NATIVE Subject: AP BACKS OFF TAGS: PINT, SP

To: STATE Type: TE

vdkvgwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS\_Docs/f1eab4a2-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc

Review Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009

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